

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A cutting head for brush cutter or edge trimmer, the head being of the type including a passageway for a cutter string and at least one curved portion for supporting the string, the curved portion extending between an exit region for said string from said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, the head being characterized in that the passageway extends along an axis (A) that is spaced a distance (D) from an axis of rotation (C) of the head so as to present an inner edge constituted by its edge closest to said axis of rotation, said inner edge engaging a trailing edge of the string while the head is rotating, and in that the curved portion extends from said inner edge.

2. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the string passageway is essentially linear.

3. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 2, characterized in that the curved portion presents, at least locally, a radius of curvature (R) that is greater than said distance.

4. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved portion presents a radius of curvature that is constant.

5. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved portion presents a radius of curvature that is variable.

6. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved portion joins the string passageway substantially tangentially.

7. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved portion joins the peripheral region of the head substantially tangentially.

8. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that a secondary curved portion (122) is provided between an outer edge of the passageway opposite from its inner edge and the peripheral region of the head.

9. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that two string passageways and their respective curved portions are provided.

10. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 9, characterized in that the two string passageways are situated on either side of the axis of rotation of the head, and in that the exit regions from the respective passageways are situated in diametrically-opposite regions of the head.

11. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the cutter string presents a cross-section that is polygonal.

12. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 11, characterized in that the cutter string presents a width greater than about 3 mm.

13. (Previously Presented) A vegetation cutting device characterized in that it includes a cutting head according to claim 1 and motor suitable for rotating said head.

14. (Previously Presented) A cutting head for brush cutter or edge trimmer, the head being of the type including a passageway for a cutter string and at least one curved portion for supporting the string, the curved portion extending between an exit region for said string from said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, the head being characterized in that the passageway is essentially linear and extends along an axis (A) that is spaced a distance (D) from an axis of rotation (C) of the head so as to present an inner edge constituted by its edge closest to said axis of rotation, said inner edge corresponding to a trailing edge of the string while the head is rotating, and in that the curved portion presents, at least locally, a radius of curvature (R) that is greater than said distance and extends from said inner edge.

15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion presents a radius of curvature that is constant.
17. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion presents a radius of curvature that is variable.
18. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion joins the string passageway substantially tangentially.
19. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion joins the peripheral region of the head substantially tangentially.
20. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that a secondary curved portion is provided between an outer edge of the passageway opposite from its inner edge and the peripheral region of the head.
21. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that two string passageways and respective curved portions are provided.
22. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 21, characterized in that the two string passageways are situated on either side of the axis of rotation of the head, and in that the exit regions from the respective passageways are situated in diametrically-opposite regions of the head.
23. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to of claim 14, characterized in that the cutter string presents a cross-section that is polygonal.
24. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 23, characterized in that the cutter string presents a width greater than about 3 mm.

25. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, wherein the passageway defines an opening at a peripheral location of the cutting head, wherein the passageway extends linearly from the opening to said curved portion, and wherein said peripheral region associated with the curved portion is circumferentially spaced from the peripheral location associated with the opening.

26. (New) A cutting head for brush cutter or edge trimmer, the head being of the type including a passageway for a cutter string and at least one curved portion configured to support the string, the curved portion extending between an exit region for said string from said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein the passageway extends along an axis (A) that is spaced a distance (D) from an axis of rotation (C) of the head so as to present an inner edge constituted by its edge closest to said axis of rotation, said inner edge configured to engage a trailing edge of the string while the head is rotating, wherein the curved portion extends from said inner edge and wherein the passageway comprises an opening for said string opposite the exit region, wherein the head is configured such that the cutter string projects outside of the head from the exit region only.

27. (New) A cutting head according to claim 26, wherein at least two string passageways and their respective curved portions are provided.

28. (New) A cutting head according to claim 27, wherein two string passageways are situated on either side of the axis of rotation of the head, and in that the exit regions from the respective passageways are situated in diametrically-opposite regions of the head.

29. (New) The cutting head according claim 28, further comprising, at a level different from that of said first two string passageways, two string passageways and their respective curved portions, situated on either side of the axis of rotation of the head, wherein the exit regions from the respective passageways are situated in diametrically-opposite regions of the head, offset by 90° in relation to the first ones.

30. (New) A cutting head for brush cutter or edge trimmer, the head being of the type including a passageway for a cutter string and at least one curved portion configured to support the string, the curved portion extending between an exit region for said string from said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein the passageway extends along an axis (A) that is spaced a distance (D) from an axis of rotation (C) of the head so as to present an inner edge constituted by its edge closest to said axis of rotation, said inner edge configured to engage a trailing edge of the string while the head is rotating, wherein the curved portion extends from said inner edge and wherein the curved portion presents a recessed profile that is suited to the cross-section of the cutter string and is configured to maintain the orientation of the cutter string.

31. (New) A cutting head for brush cutter or edge trimmer, the head being of the type including a passageway for a cutter string, a first curved portion configured to guide the string, and a second curved portion configured to support the string, the first curved portion extending between an opening for said string and a peripheral region of the head and the second curved portion extending between an exit region opposite the opening and the peripheral region of the head, wherein the passageway extends along an axis (A) that is spaced a distance (D) from an axis of rotation (C) of the head so as to present an inner edge constituted by its edge closest to said axis of rotation, said inner edge configured to engage a trailing edge of the string while the head is rotating proximate the second curved portion, wherein the radius of curvature of the second curved portion is different from the radius of curvature of the first curved portion.